FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An Exposed Nocturnal Roost of Migrant Vaux Swifts.—The increasing tendency of migrant Vaux Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) to roost in chimneys of dwellings in southern California is well known (Huey, Condor, 62, 1960:483). It is seldom, however, that the species has been observed roosting in the open on the vertical trunks of trees.

Just after sunrise on May 8, 1964, Mr. Matthew J. Dragicevich of Palm Springs, California, was fortunate to observe and photograph a large cluster of Vaux Swifts roosting on the trunk of a tamarisk tree (*Tamarix* sp.) on the Arizona bank of the Colorado River, two miles south of Davis Dam, Mojave County, Arizona. According to Mr. Dragicevich, the roosting flock was discovered early in the morning in a tight cluster four feet long, fourteen inches wide and approximately three birds deep. All the birds appeared dead and several individuals on the ground at the base of the tree, six feet below, actually were dead. Mr. Dragicevich removed one swift from the surface of the cluster and noted that it was completely inert, with the eyes closed. Thinking that the bird was dead, he tossed it toward the river. Instead of falling into the water, the bird took wing and flew away. The experiment was repeated with several additional birds and on each occasion the swifts revived from their apparent torpor before hitting the water. The observer

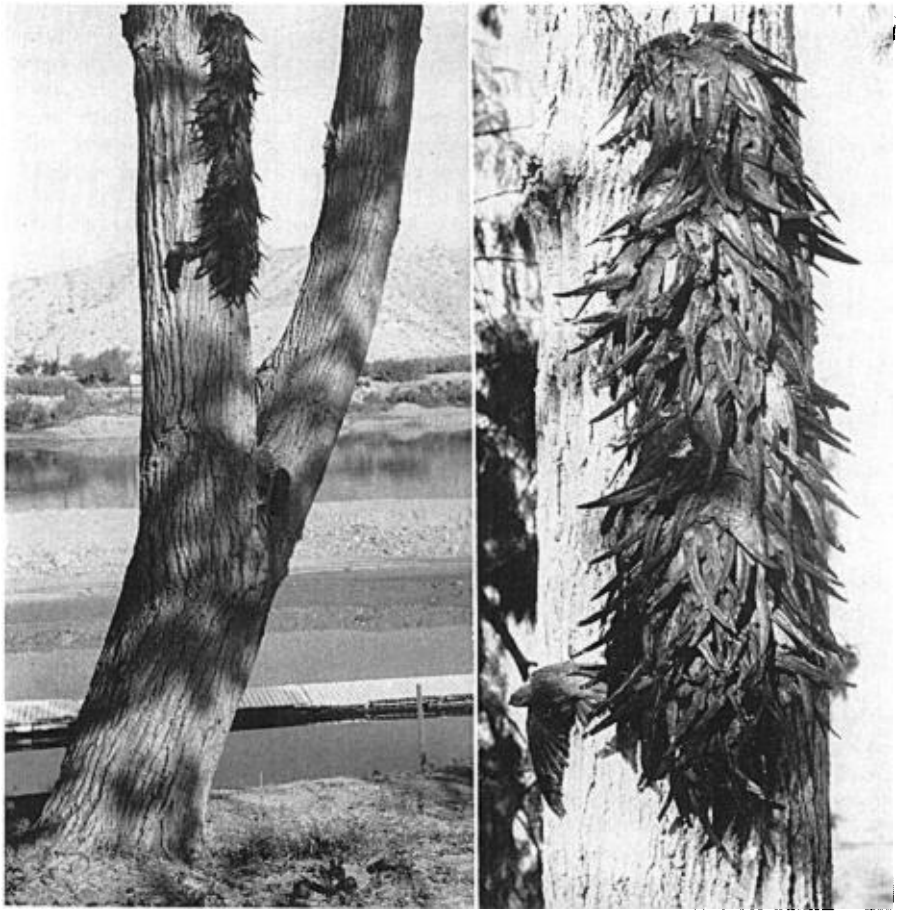

FIG. 1. Vaux Swifts at exposed roost on trunk of tamarisk tree.

stated that the temperature during the preceding night had been relatively low for the area, varying from 37° to 38° F. and that the entire flock of swifts was on the wing within two hours after sunrise.

Unfortunately, Mr. Dragicevich was not equipped to take any body temperatures of the roosting swifts, nor were any specimens saved. He did, however, take several excellent photographs of the roosting swifts, thus providing proof that migrant swifts will resort to arboreal roosts of this type.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, May 29, 1964.*

Galápagos Finch Captured in Flight by Laughing Gull.—At about 8 a.m. on March 2, 1964, the California Maritime Academy's Training Ship, the "Golden Bear," carrying the members of the Galápagos International Scientific Project, entered the mouth of the Río Guayas, Ecuador, en route to the port of Guayaquil. At 8:30 a.m., George A. Bartholomew and I were watching the shores, the floating debris on the river, and the birds flying astern and around the ship. Most of the birds in the immediate vicinity of the ship were Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*); perhaps fifty of them were within 100 feet of the stern of the vessel.

Several dozen living Galápagos finches were in cages on the deck just above us, part of a group being taken to the United States by Robert I. Bowman for continuation of his studies of their vocal behavior. As we stood at the port rail slightly astern of mid-ship on the boat deck, we saw a Darwin finch fly away from the ship from above our heads. The bird flew as though ill or greatly fatigued toward the northern shore about a quarter of a mile away. Simultaneously with sighting the finch, we saw three Laughing Gulls swoop from a higher level and give chase to the small bird. Their pursuit was deliberate and relentless. They forced the finch lower and lower, with first one gull and then another dashing directly at it from above or from one side. On the fourth or fifth attack, the leading gull grasped the finch, gave it a quick, snapping shake, and within four or five seconds had swallowed it!

The predatory gulls swung back toward the ship, the one that had swallowed the finch slightly trailing the others and giving several shakes of its head. The entire episode occupied no more than thirty or forty seconds, during which time the finch had been forced from a height of approximately thirty feet to about two feet above the water.

Dr. Bartholomew and I at once inquired of Dr. Bowman about the security of his cages and within a few minutes learned that Stephen Billeb, one of Bowman's assistants, had tried to transfer the bird from one cage to another because it seemed ill. The finch (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) had unexpectedly struggled when removed from the cage and slipped from Billeb's grasp. Its evasive maneuvers were sluggish, so it may have been hampered by its illness, thus making capture by the gull easier than normal, although all members of this group of finches fly weakly.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Division of Systematic Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, California, May 1, 1964.*

Black Hawk Nesting in Utah.—On May 4, 1962, the senior author flushed a black hawk from a dead mammal on the highway southwest of Springdale, Washington County, Utah. The hawk flew to a cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) along the North Fork of the Virgin River, east of the highway. It allowed a close approach, and a careful study showed it to be a Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*); the distinctive shape, broad white band on the tail, and the white spots near the ends of the wings were noted when it flew. The tree in which the hawk alighted contained a large nest, and the hawk was seen again in the vicinity of this nest on May 8. On May 24, Carter observed a Black Hawk perched on a pole near the North Fork of the Virgin River, about two miles southwest of Springdale. Another Black Hawk flew in and alighted on the back of the first individual; it maintained this position for about two minutes, and then both birds flew away. A Black Hawk was seen in the Springdale area on May 28. No records were obtained during June, but on July 12, two Black Hawks were flushed from a cottonwood on the west side of the river and in the same locality where they had been observed on May 24; the cottonwood contained a large nest. The last record of the Black Hawk in the Springdale area in 1962 was one seen in a